that on the ijth May, the Princes of Conde and Dombes raised their siege from Craon, understanding of the approach of the Duke Mercury towards them with all his forces, and intending to retire (for they were too weak to encounter their enemies) they were suddenly surprised through want of advertisements, of counsel and good resistance, being charged by the enemy both before and behind, they having taken an unfit, straight passage to retire with their cannon and their forces The English and lance-knights only came to blows who served with great courage and paid for it accordingly, being most of them slain The rest of the French ran away at the first and saved themselves until the Duke Mercury coasted them, and then overtaking some of them in rout killed many but took the most part prisoners Of the artillery they saved not one piece, having seven cannon and four demi-culverin, without ever making shot with them

The Princes[3] forces were about 3500 foot and 400 horse, and the enemy between 5 and 6000 foot and 800 horse The Duke Mercury hath since pursued his victory and taken Chateau Goutyer and Le Val, which surrendered voluntarily, both being passages of the Mayne and therefore of very great importance He is now before Mayne, the chief town

This unhappy accident hath struck a great fear and terror into all the hearts of the King's subjects m Brittany, and therefore will hazard the loss of the towns and places there if they be not relieved immediately and better assured The King's designs of blocking Rouen and Newhaven and clearing Normandy are frustrated, he is diverted from following the Duke of Parma, as before he intended, and hath now been forced to return to Vernon to take counsel for his best course to

succour Brittany
The Leaguers are animated and the Parisians receive 1200
Spaniards, Italians and Walloons into garrison, and in a manner
become less willing for peace

Immediately after the receipt of these news the King sent
for Sir Henry Unton and imparted them to him at length with
great passion and discontent, discoursing at large of his miserable
estate, of the factions of his servants, and of their ill dispositions.
Then he required the ambassador's opinions touching his course
for Brittany, and also what further aid he might expect from the
Queen, alleging that unless he were immediately strengthened